



FACT SHEET

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Sustainability at Airway Heights Corrections Center

Operations

- **Recycling Program:** Now in its 15th year at [Airway Heights Corrections Center](#), the program is diverting an average of 440 tons of material annually from the waste stream.
- **Scrap Wood:** 10,000 pounds a month of scrap wood is donated from the Correctional Industries pallet yard to local people. The pallets were previously disposed of through the waste stream.
- **Wood Program:** Inmate crews cut and delivered 321 cords of wood in 2008 and 221 cords in 2009 to venerable citizens and charities. This program also provided 28 cords of wood to Native Americans for use in their sweat lodge on site.
- **Sustainable Lawn Care:** Airway Heights uses sustainable practices on 35 acres of turf grass lawns. Practices include mulch mowing which recycles lawn clippings and reduces fertilizer use by half. The staff uses only organic fertilizers. A process for enhancement of microbial and other soil life to increase soil humus and provide an effective water cycle is very beneficial.
- **Trashcan Liners:** The staff is working to reduce the number of plastic trashcan liners used throughout the work sites and living units.
- **Toilet Paper:** The facility now uses 100 percent one-ply toilet paper with no individual outside wrapper. The only packaging is the carton the paper comes in, and that carton is bio-degradable.
- **Offender Utensils:** Dining rooms are now supplied with sporks only which reduces purchasing and replacement costs of forks, spoons, and knives.
- **Offender Footwear:** When offender's shoes and boots are scheduled for replacement the clothing department determines what is re-serviceable then reissues to offenders releasing from the Segregated Management Unit. Shoes and boots that are not re-serviceable are sent via the chain bus to Stafford Creek Corrections Center to be recycled. By transporting the footwear on a chain bus no additional fuel consumption is required to recycle the footwear.
- **Mattress Recycling:** Since 1995 Airway Heights has donated all reusable mattresses to a non-profit for reuse diverting them from our waste stream.
- **Hazardous Waste:** Hazardous Waste Management program diverts reusable construction items such as paint to Habitat for Humanity which reduces the amount of hazardous waste that is disposed.
- **Contaminated Shop Towel Program:** Established in 2008, this program reduced the facility's Hazardous Waste Generator Status by reducing the number of solvent rags being diverted as hazardous waste from paint shops, auto shops and other inmate industries. Shop towels are now laundered by a local vendor and reused.
- **Chemical Review Committee:** The committee requires staff members to find chemicals that are less hazardous or justify why the need to keep using chemicals that are hazardous. As a result, more than 50 products that are rated 4 on the [Hazardous Materials Identification System](#) are no longer used at Airway Heights.

Facilities

- **LEED-Certified Buildings:** Two buildings at Airway Heights Corrections Center are rated silver by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED-certified buildings require less water and electricity to operate use more natural light and require fewer toxic materials to build.
- **Rideshare Program:** Ninety-one staff members now take advantage of commute alternatives. During the first five months of 2010 the staff reduced the amount of carbon monoxide generated by 389 tons, drove 40,450 fewer miles and saved \$23,159 by reducing fuel consumption and maintenance costs.

More Information

Visit the Department of Corrections' [sustainability website](#) for statewide information.